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28 SEP 1965

Copy 2 of 12

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT: NASA Request for Soviet APOLLO Estimate

1. The letter of 23 August 1965 from Mr. Webb to the DCI requests a clear estimative focus on the likelihood and consequences of a Soviet program to land a man on the moon in competition with APOLLO. A draft paper has been prepared by a joint DDI/DDS&T task force which largely reaffirms those portions of previous estimates which deal with this topic.

2. As you know, the Director has been anxious to establish a Space Intelligence Panel, and one is now being created under the chairmanship of [REDACTED] The Director and I discussed the feasibility of having this panel concentrate an early first meeting on a fresh, agnostic examination of the Soviet APOLLO Program, providing that the NASA request could wait. I discussed this with General Cabell, who authored Webb's request, and he endorsed our plan and indicated no special urgency for such a paper. We are now proceeding to schedule a meeting of the Space Intelligence Panel, hopefully in early October.

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3. Under the circumstances it would seem undesirable to issue the present draft paper as a CIA response to the NASA request. Rather, I believe that we should wait until after we have had the benefit of the Panel Review.

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

cc: DCI OCI
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